Berne August

My very good Sir

On my arrival at this place, two days ago I had the pleasure to receive yours of the fifteenth of July. It is impossible to desire more than I do to ~~[illegible]~~ make the journey you propose, & follow the route you have had the goodness to mark out, but the actual state of affairs forbids my thinking of it. Col. Miranda, who has for some days been my traveling companion, is very well acquainted with the route you suggest: if any thing could add to the desire, which your having recommended it, has given me to make it, it would be the account he has given me of those interesting countries, but he also tells me it is quite impossible to visit Constantinople at this time, and that traveling through the Ottoman Territories, is not only unsafe but absolutely dangerous... Since writing to you I have thought of giving up the danube expedition and instead of going to Vienna, ~~and~~ as I intended, by the way of Trieste into Italy, to cross the Alps. I cannot propose to myself any advantage which will result from the german tour; The Objects of it would be to know the Country & its politics commerce and manners. the system of their Politics seems intricate. our commercial con=nections will never be considerable, and their man=ners are not to be desired: besides which, not speaking or knowing a word of the german language, it would be necessary to continue a much longer time in the Country than I conceive any advantage from so doing would be adequate to. I flatter myself

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this alteration of route will meet with your approbation and concurrence. I have stated to you the reasons which influence my making it, there is another, which I think not unworthy of attention. it is, that going from this Country across the Alps, I shall be enabled to continue longer in Italy than I otherwise could have done. to the prejudice previously to Germany would oblige me to go rapidly through Italy a country where there must be much for an Inhabitant of the southern States, to notice & study. I am entirely of your opinion that the time I shall pass at Lisbon and Madrid will be well employed. to travel through much of Spain & Portugal will require much time and I think whatever one wishes to know of Countries (or Characters, in them) may in general be best learnt at their Capitals, or in their Environs.

Before this your Excellency will have heard of another victory obtained by the Prince de Nassau. a second victory obtained by the Prince de Nassau. over the Turks of the Ottomans being successful as Bagatelle: these things, for a moment, promised that a stop would soon be put to the further effusion of Blood. but the conduct of Sweden has changed the prospect & the present scene announces a a long general & bloody war. The Swedes have a considerable fleet at Sea. Sixty thousand Prussians are in motion & it is very questionable whether England, fond of meddling in troubled waters will remain quiet.

It gives me great pleasure, my dear Sir, to learn that Virginia was likely to accept the new Constitution; and I hope, before I shall have the happiness of seeing you in the Land in Paris, to learn not only that an

our Government is in motion but that it has
been accommodated to the wills of the Governing
States and that all those blessings have been
the consequences which the wisdom of those
who composed it taught us to hope for. Mr Short
tells me it is pretty certain Genl Washington
will accept the Presidency of our new Govern.t
and that D.r Franklin it is supposed will be
nominated as vice president: in making choice of
these Gentlemen the good sense of our countrymen
will manifest itself exceedingly and I am
sure it will acquire great credit to our
Government having placed at its head two such
illustrious Characters. I was much pleased to
learn by your letter that Affairs in France were not
so bad as believed - I was much chagrin'd to read in
in the Leyden Gazette that our friend the marquis de
la Fayette had experienced the dissatisfaction of his King
but hope, from your not having mentioned it, &
having my information only from the News Papers,
it is not true. I am very much indebted to you Sir
Sir for the introductory Letters you have sent me
I entertain the highest sense of your kindness
am with thanks for the many instances of sincere
friendship with which you have honored me
Your affectionate friend
Devoted Servant

His Excellency
T. Jefferson Esq.r

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Rutledge Johnson

In the event of any Letters coming addressed
your excellency's care, I request you will forward
them by Geneva Postmaster. I shall not leave
Geneva before the 15th May of September